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The situation was so critical that a conference of allied statesmen and military chiefs was called. The British, coming from London and the French going north from Paris. They met at Doullens.

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"Of that there is no question whatever," was Poincaré's answer. "I am going to Compiègne directly—this very night, responded the Premier. 'Of course I shall see Pétain again, and will let you know by telephone during the evening what he says.'

"The same night about 11 o'clock the telephone message came. 'It was the voice of the Premier. 'I have seen Pétain again,' it said. 'He does not change his opinion.'

"Very well, we will discuss the matter later on," Poincaré hung up abruptly, breaking the telephone connection.

"That night enemy raids were being made over Paris. During this excitement the President wrote a letter to the Premier—and it expressed opposition. Before making a final decision, however, he suggested calling the Ministerial Council in session. The suggestion was approved and the council was convened the following morning.

"Clemenceau, when he arrived, was feeling out of sorts. Under his exterior, which is brutal, he is of noble character and susceptible to suggestion.

"Upon the arrival of the Ministers he made the following remarks: 'We will have a conference day after to-morrow at Doullens with a representative of the Government of Great Britain. I would suggest that I be accompanied by the President, and that would give him an opportunity to judge for himself.'

"This was agreed to. On Wednesday, March 28, Poincaré went to Doullens by automobile. When Poincaré left his automobile he was informed that Marshal Haig was at the Town Hall conferring with some of his army commanders, and it might be best not to interrupt him. The members of the delegations walked to and fro. In the party were Poincaré, Clemenceau, Loucheur, Minister of Munitions, and a General. The General stayed about with an old case which a soldier had presented to him.

Gen. Foch in Party.

"This man was Foch. 'No one knew exactly who had invited him to come. There was no disputing, however, that he was there. When he saw Poincaré he drew near and took him aside in conversation. It must be that you do not know what orders have been issued,' he said to Poincaré.

"To tell the truth, the President did not know. The instructions were given. They ordered a complete retreat of the army, and the evacuation of Paris with

Truculent Soviet Note Protests Trade Delay

LONDON, Nov. 13 (Saturday).—The London *Times* says it understands the British Government has received a long note from M. Tchitcherine, the Russian Bolshevik Foreign Minister, which is unconciliatory and almost aggressive in tone, calling attention to what is described as the delay of the British Government in the resumption of trade with Soviet Russia.

the least delay. Foch was over excited. 'Paris, Paris,' he kept exclaiming. 'Paris has nothing to do with this. Paris is far off. We must stop the Boche here. We need only to repeat that again—he shall not pass. The Boche has not passed. All that is needed is to give the necessary orders and that done three-quarters of the task is done, and we will withdraw no further.'

"France is not dead. Haig and Pétain are two men to hold with firmness against this opening with two doors, each pushing behind his door. The opening has been made, and they are there to watch the enemy be swallowed up."

"How can you check them?" asked M. Loucheur, who had approached. "Well, you know how I do things," said Foch. "See, I stick a piece of sealing wax there, another there and another there. Soon the Boche scarcely can move. Then I stick another there and they are jammed. The Boche is stuck. One can always stick the Boche."

"Clemenceau has come up and listened. He leaned over Loucheur's shoulder and said: 'His is a dangerous fellow.'

"The English passed broke up at this moment and the Frenchmen joined their allies. Lord Milner represented the British Government. Haig had the strained and wearied expression of a man who has not rested for three days.

"Poincaré explained the situation, saying the point was to stop the Germans where they were and not anywhere else. Haig spoke next. He said he would do all he could to halt the Germans at Amiens.

"Foch becomes excited. 'As these words were spoken Foch jumped to his feet. Striking the table with his fist, he exclaimed: 'No, Marshal, no! It is not Amiens that matters. The matter is before Amiens. We must defeat them where they are.'

"In his abrupt way Foch repeated the argument he had used in the square outside, saying it would have been better if the Boche had been stopped at the Somme, but now there was no choice left, and he must be halted, and it would only be necessary to give the orders and he would be halted."

"Milner made a signal to Clemenceau after this speech and left the table. Clemenceau joined him, there could be heard a low dialogue, and several times Milner could be heard saying, 'There is a view of harmonizing European policies with the views of the new Administration.'

"If this is continued the result will be a debacle," he said. 'There is only one remedy. There must be a supreme commander above me and above Pétain.'

"Haig then said he would be willing to follow the commands of Foch. 'Haig and I agreed that this determination to his Government in forty-eight hours before. Afterward, he told M. Poincaré, he had telegraphed to London to send a representative of the British Government to the conference to make the nomination of Foch as supreme commander."

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PRESIDENT'S HANDS OFF WORLD AFFAIRS

Decision Follows Overwhelming Repudiation of Administration by Voters.

FIUME INCIDENT CLOSED

Officials Silent on Defeat of Wilson's Programme—Mexico Question Open.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Nov. 12.—The Wilson Administration for the rest of its brief existence will withdraw from participation in international politics. This decision has been reached following the overwhelming repudiation of the Administration by the voters of the country in the election and was exemplified today in the decision reached by the United States Government relative to the agreement made by Italy and Yugoslavia at the conference at Rapallo.

This arrangement, which disposes of the question of Fiume, is regarded as one of the latest overthrows of the international programme insisted upon by President Wilson at Versailles. In spite of this fact the Administration will regard the incident as closed, standing upon the President's last note, in which he said he would accept any programme urged by the two parties interested which did not infringe upon the rights of a third party, presumably Albania.

The arrangement reached by Italy and Yugoslavia calls renewed attention to the obstinate fight which the President made against the so-called imperialistic efforts of the Italians and which had a mind the internationalization of Fiume under the League of Nations.

Under the terms of the settlement Fiume remains an independent state with both the possibilities and probabilities that it will become part of Italy proper at a later time. The outcome is regarded as a great victory for D'Annunzio, who deserted poetry to become an aviator during the war, and since then has defied the world to come and take Fiume from him.

Whatever chagrin the Administration may feel in this outcome is concealed by an attitude of silence. The State Department to-day confining itself to making public the official terms of the agreement. It is recognized that because of the election results in America the Wilson Administration no longer has standing in Europe. Any arrangements will be made or withheld with a view of harmonizing European policies with the views of the new Administration.

The Colby note to Baron Romano Azevedo, the Italian Ambassador, in regard to Poland is regarded as the last word which this Administration will utter with an air of authority in respect to world politics. Beyond that it is understood the Administration plans merely to mark time and endeavor to keep its records straight so far as possible.

This may not apply to Mexico, although there is a growing feeling that the Administration believes it is walking on dangerous ground in forcing recognition of the new government be-

fore the advent of the Harding Administration in Washington.

The fact that the Administration is sending Secretary of State Colby to South America upon a visit of mere ceremony, leaving the handling of foreign affairs to Norman Davis, Under Secretary of State, is understood to be part of this decision.

Whether Secretary Colby's mind has ceased to "go along" with that of the President on Mexico and other matters as was anticipated when he was appointed to succeed Robert Lansing, is not known. In any event Mr. Davis, whose diplomatic training has been of a business character and who can be safely relied upon to carry out the directions of the President without formulating a foreign policy of his own, is to be left in charge at Washington.

The most important decision which the State Department will have to reach either before Mr. Colby's departure or during his absence will relate to Mexico. It is regarded as significant that George T. Summerlin, American Charge d'Affaires at Mexico City, has returned to his post, arriving at the Mexican capital yesterday.

CHINESE MINISTRY ENDS CONSORTIUM

Reported to Have Decided to Rely on Home Bankers for Needed Money.

HONG KONG, Nov. 12.—It is reported that the Ministry of Finance, in view of the reported unacceptability of the terms of the consortium, has decided to rely upon the proposals of Chinese bankers for furnishing the government with finances.

A despatch from Peking November 3 said leading Chinese bankers at a conference with the Premier had insisted that the Government carry out its programme of retrenchment and a policy of financial reform. They assured the Government that they would devise means for supplying it with funds.

The same despatch added that an announcement had been made from an official source that the Government was in receipt of numerous protests from merchants and gentry in the provinces against the terms of the consortium.

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SHEBOYGAN, Wis., Nov. 12.—Joe Berch, 23, of Youngstown, Ohio, is under arrest here to-day, having asked to be locked up on a charge of killing Anton Solen at Alliquippa, Pa., on October 10. Berch, the police say, declared he killed Solen after the latter had won a large amount of money from him in a game of cards.

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